

Things I Need to Know

Israel TOUR 2020



PO Box 16. Oakwood GA 30566. 678.717.9921

Passport: Make sure your passport is up to date and will not expire six months past tour return date. Your Passport should be with you at all times and make a copy of your passport to keep inside your carry-on (this is very important in case your passport is lost). Also, when we arrive in Tel Aviv, Customs will place an Israeli visa inside your passport—Keep this inside the passport, which you will carry with you every day as we tour.

Money: Keep money in a safe place and not all of it in the same place. Most Israeli vendors accept Master Card and Visa—credit and debit. Moneychangers are available at various places, including the airport as well as some hotels. Many places accept US dollars but most prefer shekels. We do not recommend travelers checks. The amount you take is up to you. Plan for approximately \$25 per day for lunch, drinks and snacks, plus what you plan to spend for souvenirs. Credit/Debit card users: you will need to contact your bank to let them know that you will be making purchases out of the country.

Luggage: Zion's Bridge Travelers are allowed 1 carry-on, 1 personal item, and 1 check-on, which is included in your ticket price. It will be your responsibility to pay any extra luggage overage. Keep in mind that you will be able to purchase items you may forget. It's advisable to pack light, and at least 10 pounds under weight to allow for purchased items while in Israel.

Carry on weight – 17 lbs., size – 21X15 ½ X9
Check on weight – 50 lbs., size – 62 in (circumference total)
<https://upgradedpoints.com/lufthansa-baggage-fees/>

While touring, many people prefer to carry a small backpack with water, wet wipes, snacks, camera, and of course, your passport and spending money. We will be allowed to leave items on our travel couch, which will be locked and attended. Robbie wears clothes with pockets or a pocketed travel vest and refuses to carry “stuff”. **The lighter your load, the better.**

Water: The water in Israel is safe to drink. Keeping hydrated is necessary to keep you healthy and feeling at your best. Yes, there are clean bathrooms at every stop!

Lunch: Lunch is on your own. If you want to experience the local food, plan on around 12 to 15 dollars. Feel free to take along a simple snack from home instead. Breakfast and dinner are included in the tour price and will be served at the hotel. Keep in mind that soft drinks are per glass with no free refills. Coffee and tea are usually complimentary with your hotel meals. For lunch, Robbie and I usually order tap water, which is clean and free.

How to Dress: Dress comfortably. Jeans, knee shorts, or athletic wear are acceptable. Dress modestly as many of the areas we visit are religious. We will keep you updated on the weather as we get closer to tour time. Some Novembers require a jacket; other times, we have been in short sleeves. Jerusalem can fluctuate 30 degrees the same day, so layer your clothing for optimal comfort. The rainy season usually begins in November and can continue through early April, so take along a small umbrella or rain gear to cover your head, like the plastic Dollar Store ponchos. The Dead Sea area is usually warmer than the other areas we visit. Remember to take along a swimsuit, flip flops, and beach towel for that day. For the sun sensitive, you may

Things I Need to Know

Israel TOUR 2020



PO Box 16. Oakwood GA 30566. 678.717.9921

need sunscreen and/or a hat as well as sunglasses. Two pairs of comfortable shoes are sufficient, with “comfort” being the key word!

Electronics: You will need an adapter for your electronics. Israel uses 220 volts. An adapter will be needed for your iPhone, camera, hairdryer, etc. Some devices, such as travel blow-dryers, have a voltage converter on them. Check all of your devices. If they can handle up to 240 volts, all you need is an adapter to accommodate Israel’s type of sockets. It is a good idea to purchase a voltage converter and several adapters. Pay careful attention to the converter wattage. A cheap converter will handle small appliances like a clock—not curling irons. Our hotels have hairdryers in the room, and an iron upon request.

Laundry Service: Rates for laundry service at hotels in Israel are more expensive than dry cleaners in the states. We will have several nights stay in the Galilee and Jerusalem so this would be your best time to hand wash items should the need arise.

Cell Phones: Most cell providers have international rates. Contact your carrier to understand your options. For example, Verizon (U.S.) offers an international unlimited plan for \$10 per day or a per minute/text/data rate. WiFi is available in the rooms and on the motor coach, which should help spare your data. (Be aware, it is not always at the desired speed.)

Insurance: Contact your provider to let them know you will be out of the country. Please note that Medicare does NOT provide coverage in Israel but some supplemental policies become the primary. Check your policy and then call your agent so you will know for sure. Erin (@ 706.738.6611- ext 236.) of AAA can tell you about their travel plans. Seven Corners (<https://www.sevencorners.com>) is an option several of our friends recommend. Travel insurance is not part of your tour package but is recommended.

Other Questions: You may have questions that I have not covered so feel free to email or phone us. We want this to be a life-changing experience that will help you know Jesus in a greater dimension. You may be like Robbie and me and feel you must go again and again.

connect@zionsbridge.org